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January 2, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing you to encourage our government to agree to the proposed settlement of the Microsoft case. The current settlement was reached after much deliberation and effort. It calls for changes in Microsoft's business practices, creating new rules that allow for more competition in the IT sector. I see no need for federal hearings and lawsuits when the states have already had their say. Big-Brother government should keep its nose out of business and concentrate on fighting our wars.

I have had extensive experience in dealing with Microsoft, working for years in the broadband communications industry. I am currently retired but do some engineering consulting, whereby all of the software I use is integrated with Microsoft's internal systems (e.g. MS office tools, etc). I agree that some of their practices are designed to keep their business rolling, but what business isn't looking out for their future interests? If people or businesses do not like their practices or products, they can simply choose not to buy or use them. It is not the government's job to determine individuals' preferences or best interests. Our country's economy is based on capitalism, and should continue in the same fashion by leaving Microsoft alone. Again, I ask that you please continue the Justice Department's present course of action and enact the settlement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Max Sperry

CC: Senator Rick Santorum